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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #2406 1851128  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 031128Z JUL 08  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3442  
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0646  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JUL 9538  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 6325  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1333  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6997  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4484  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1551  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAWJC/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS BOGOTA 002406

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
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SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN MILITARY RESCUES AMERICAN HOSTAGES,  
INGRID BETANCOURT

1. Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos announced on July 2 that the Colombian military had rescued American hostages Marc Gonsalves, Thomas Howes, and Keith Stansell, along with Ingrid Betancourt and eleven members of the Colombian security forces, from the FARC. Military intelligence rescued the hostages from an area south of San Jose de Guaviare in a secret operation titled "Operation Jaque." Santos said the unprecedented operation incurred no injuries or deaths. He added that the Colombian military had "infiltrated" the FARC Secretariat, as well as the FARC's First Front which was holding the hostages, as part of the operation. Santos called on all FARC to lay down their arms and demobilize. The Colombian military also captured two FARC members, including First Front commander Gerardo Antonio Aguilar, alias "Cesar," and Alexander Farfan, alias "Enrique Gafas." Santos said the military would hand "Cesar" over to Colombian judicial authorities. The American hostages are wheels up at 6:15 PM en route to the United States tonight.  
BROWNFIELD